

FOCUS ON

Fort Lauderdale

December 2001
/January 2002

A
community
newsletter
published
by the
City
of
Fort
Lauderdale

Science & Technology In Police Work



The Ultimate Playstation Debuts At Holiday Park

Fire-Rescue Department: Ready For New Challenges



Also In This Issue...

Technological Enhancements, Public Meetings,
Holiday Season Activities and more!





Mayor's Message

Jim Naugle

City Commission

**Vice Mayor
Gloria F. Katz, District I**

**Commissioner
Tim Smith, District II**

**Commissioner
Carlton B. Moore, District III**

**Commissioner
Cindi Hutchinson, District IV**

City Moves Forward - Stronger And Safer

The City of Fort Lauderdale is committed to providing the highest level of safety and security to its citizens, business community and city facilities. I take this opportunity to provide residents with the comfort in knowing that the City of Fort Lauderdale has reviewed its existing emergency preparedness programs, intensified security procedures for our community, and identified additional measures to improve our effectiveness. In addition, the City has conducted a security assessment of public safety services and its facilities as part of its ongoing commitment to planning, training, and preparedness for community protection. While there has been no evidence of

threats to the City of Fort Lauderdale, our public safety personnel are vigilant to possible threats with a crisis plan in place to ensure the security and emergency preparedness of our community. For example, precautionary measures are in place at our City's water facilities that includes heightened security to protect City water supply reservoirs.

Prior to the September 11th attacks, the police and fire-rescue departments achieved an excellent reputation for our emergency preparedness planning, disaster response and fire protection services. Well-trained fire-rescue and police personnel have been the foundation for keeping the residents of our community safe. Key to the success is

public safety's focus on furthering the skills and knowledge of police officers and fire-rescue personnel in responding to a wide range of emergency situations.

Current national events have increased the concerns of the public regarding exposure to anthrax and other chemical and biologic agents. On page 6 of this issue, we take a close look at the ability of our Hazardous Materials Team to address community needs.

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In closing, the City Commission and our families extend our best wishes to you and your families for a safe and happy holiday season.

High Achievement

City's Purchasing Division Honored For Procurement Practices



For the second year in a row, the City of Fort Lauderdale Purchasing Division has been recognized by the National Purchasing Institute (NPI) with the "Achievement of Excellence in Procurement" award. The division was recognized at the Institute's 33rd annual conference recently held in Las Vegas, NV.

The NPI annually awards the "Achievement of Excellence in Procurement" to those organizations that demonstrate excellence. The National Purchasing Institute (NPI), an affiliate of the National Association of Purchasing Management (NAPM), established the program in 1995 to recognize organizational excellence in public procurement. The program is designed to measure innovation, professionalism, productivity, and leadership attributes of the procurement organization. The evaluation is conducted by an independent committee. The City of Fort Lauderdale is among less than 100 jurisdictions recognized with this high achievement since the program's inception.

Shown at left, Purchasing Manager Kirk Buffington displays award.

City Manager's Message



Floyd T. Johnson A Holiday Message

The holiday season is upon us with a new year on the horizon. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our citizens and their loved ones happy holidays and a safe and gratifying 2002.

This is normally a time of year when we reflect on our many blessings. With the tragic events of September 11th and our American armed forces in combat, appreciating our blessings, family, friends and colleagues has taken on an even greater importance during this holiday season.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all of the citizens and City personnel who have worked tirelessly to lead fundraising efforts to benefit families in need during these difficult times. Their

compassion and leadership are an inspiration.

I would also like to personally thank all of the City staff for their steadfast commitment to excellence in 2001. The months and years ahead may prove difficult for us all, but I know that we will each meet the challenge by maintaining this commitment to high standards and pride in our community that has taken us through tough times in the past.

On a welcoming note, I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to the more than 6,500 residents of Melrose Park who voted to join the Fort Lauderdale family in October 1, 2002. As a City that provides a wealth of services,

resources and amenities, we are confident that Melrose Park residents will enjoy the quality of life available in the City of Fort Lauderdale.

As we prepare to bid farewell to 2001, I encourage our citizens to experience the vast number of holiday and family oriented festivities and programs that the City has to offer. I also encourage residents to attend the various forums and gatherings designed to gather input and feedback on City and community-driven issues. This issue highlights many activities from which to choose as well as offers information on what to look forward to in the year ahead.. For more information, I urge you to visit our website (www.ci.fort-lauderdale.fl.us).

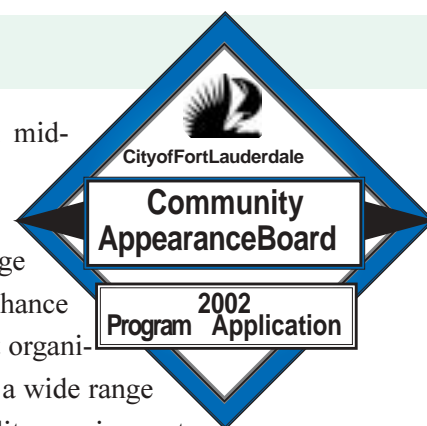
Community Appearance Awards For 2001

Applications for the 24th Annual Community Appearance Awards will be available in mid-January. A mailing list is currently being developed for interested participants.

The Community Appearance Awards Program is presented each year by the Fort Lauderdale City Commission and the Community Appearance Board. The program is designed to encourage aesthetic awareness and recognize projects and individuals participating in our community to enhance its visual image and economic vitality. Individuals, civic organizations, business and non-profit organizations, property owners, developers, contractors and architects may submit several projects in a wide range of categories from new construction to renovation for both residential and commercial. Eligibility requirements include:

- The property must be located within the corporate limits of the City of Fort Lauderdale;
- All entries must be authorized by the owner of the property;
- For the New Construction category, a Certificate of Occupancy must have been issued since January 2000 to be eligible.

To be included on the mailing list, please contact **Kathy Purdy** in the Public Information Office at (954) 828-4741 or by email kathypur@ci.fort-lauderdale.fl.us. All completed applications must be received by March 8, 2002. Winners will be announced during the Community Appearance Awards Ceremony to be held May 9, 2002 at a location to be announced.



Visit Fort Lauderdale Online at www.ci.fort-lauderdale.fl.us

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The following is a list of upcoming holiday closings and schedule changes for City of Fort Lauderdale facilities, meetings and services.

City Commission Meetings

City Commission meetings have been postponed in January due to the holidays. The Commission meetings for January will take place as follows:

Tuesday, January 8, 2002:

2 p.m. Conference Meeting (held in the 8th floor Conference Room.) ;

6 p.m. Regular Meeting (held in the 1st floor Commission Chambers)

Wednesday, January 23, 2002:

2 p.m. Conference Meeting (held in the 8th floor Conference Room.)

6 p.m. Regular Meeting (held in the 1st floor Commission Chambers)

All meetings may be viewed live online at www.ci.fort-lauderdale.fl.us

Holiday Sanitation Schedules

City sanitation service schedules have been adjusted in observance of the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

For Christmas Day: City sanitation services will be suspended in observance of the Christmas holiday. Garbage, recycling, yard waste and bulk trash service will not be picked up on Tuesday, December 25th. If your bulk trash pickup day is Tuesday, Dec. 25th, your bulk trash will be picked up on Saturday, December 22nd. All other services will resume on your next regularly scheduled pickup day. The City's Trash Transfer Station, at 2101 N.W. 6th Street, will be closed on Tuesday, December 25th.

For New Year's Day: Regular residential garbage collection, recycling, yard waste and bulk trash will be picked up as usual on Tuesday, January 1, 2002. The City's Trash Transfer Station, at 2101 N.W. 6th Street, will be closed on Tuesday, January 1, 2002.

City Offices Closed

City Hall will be closed Monday, January 21, 2002, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. The City of Fort Lauderdale urges citizens to participate in local observances and activities.



CVC Community Efforts Continue

The City of Fort Lauderdale Citizens Volunteer Corps recently painted the home of a Lauderdale Manors resident. The project was undertaken to help the homeowner

bring the property up to code. More than 20 volunteers participated in the project including Vice Mayor Gloria F. Katz, Chair of the Citizens Volunteer Corps Steering Committee, Commissioner Tim Smith, members of the City's Community Inspections team, City employees and local residents. The project was completed in two phases. Members of the Citizens Volunteer Corps pressure washed, scraped and performed minor repairs to the exterior of the property, then applied a fresh coat of beige colored paint to the home and detached garage. The volunteers also made enhancements to the property's landscaping by adding a variety of xeriscape plants, flowers and small shrubs along with organic mulch. For more information about the Citizens Volunteer Corps or to volunteer for future projects, contact **Pam Brown**, Assistant to the City Commission, at (954) 828-5004 or visit the City's web site at www.ci.fort-lauderdale.fl.us/neighborhoods.

Post Holiday Tree Recycling

Thousands of trees are taken from the earth each year to decorate, put presents under and to brighten the holidays for friends and family.

Fort Lauderdale residents can give back to the earth by recycling their Christmas trees. The City of Fort Lauderdale will recycle Christmas trees from December 29 to January 12 at the locations listed below. Residents may bring their trees to one of these locations or leave it out by the curbside on their

designated bulk trash pick up day. All Christmas trees collected will be mulched at the City of Fort Lauderdale Trash Transfer Station. Fort Lauderdale residents may pick up the free mulch Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. or Saturday and Sunday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.



For additional information on the City of Fort Lauderdale Christmas Tree Recycling Program, please contact **Casey Eckels**, Recycling Coordinator, at (954) 828-5577.

Christmas Tree Drop Off Locations

- **Bayview Park:** N.E. 44th Street and Bayview Drive
- **Croissant Park:** S.W. 17th Street and S.W. 2nd Avenue (Next to the railroad tracks and east of the ball field)
- **Holiday Park:** East Sunrise Boulevard and U.S.-1 (South of War Memorial Auditorium near the tennis courts)
- **Joseph C. Carter Park:** 1450 W. Sunrise Boulevard (main parking lot off N.W. 15th Avenue)
- **Palm Aire:** 5899 N.W. 31st Ave.
- **Trash Transfer Station:** 2101 N.W. 6th St.

Convenient Sign-Up Sessions Set For Homeowners



*The City of Fort Lauderdale,
in partnership with the Broward County Property Appraiser's Office
will conduct special taxpayer sign-up sessions
for the 2002 Homestead and Senior Exemptions.*



Deputy Property Appraisers will be on-site at City Hall and at all Fort Lauderdale libraries to assist area taxpayers and city employees with their property tax exemption filings.

Exemption Basics

This summer, the Fort Lauderdale City Commission enacted the "Senior Exemption" for eligible seniors. The "Senior Exemption" is a second property tax exemption up to \$25,000 to eligible senior citizens living on fixed incomes. Senior Exemption applicants must be 65 years or older as of January 1, 2002 and have a total household adjusted income not to exceed \$20,680 plus the cost of living increase. The filing period for the "Senior Exemption" is from January 1st through March 1, 2002. The proof of income requirements includes an annual tax return, IRS Form 4506 or SSA 1099. This exemption must be filed annually.

Also, new Fort Lauderdale homeowners are entitled to save up to \$700.00 per year on property taxes simply by claiming their "Homestead Exemption". Qualified residents who are granted the additional senior homestead exemption may be eligible for further savings of approximately \$200.

Documents You'll Need

When filing an application, taxpayers will need the following documents listed below for Florida Homestead, dated prior to January 1, 2002. All owners occupying the property must file in person on jointly held property. Husband and wife may file for each other with the required documents for both.

The following is the 2002 Fort Lauderdale "Homestead and Senior Exemption" Schedule:

Fort Lauderdale City Hall

100 N Andrews Ave.

January 25th, February 6th

Noon - 2 p.m.

8th Floor Employee Cafeteria

(954) 357-6905

Imperial Point Branch Library

5985 N. Federal Highway

January 14th, February 11th

11:30am - 1:30pm

(954) 492-1881

Fort Lauderdale Branch Library/ARTSERVE

1300 E. Sunrise Blvd.

January 8th, February 5th

5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

(954) 765-4263

Galt Ocean Mile Reading Room

3403 Galt Ocean Dr.

December 20, January 24

4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

(954) 357-2877

Riverland Branch Library

2710 W. Davie Blvd.

January 7, January 21

5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

(954) 791-1085

Tyrone Bryant Branch Library

2230 NW 21 Ave.

January 28th, February 11th

5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

(954) 497-1675

Von D. Mizell Library

1409 Sistrunk Blvd.

January 10, February 7

4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

(954) 765-4269

If you are married and the deed has different last names for husband and wife, a marriage license/certificate must be presented. The following is a list of the paperwork requested at time of filing:

1) Proof of Ownership: in the form of a deed, lease, Notice of Proposed Taxes or Tax Receipt, if the property is in Trust, bring a complete copy of the original Trust Agreement.

2) Proof of Florida residence dated prior to January 1, 2002 in the form of one of the following:

- Florida Driver's License
- Florida Voter's Registration Card or Recorded Declaration of Domicile
- Florida Vehicle Registration
- Non-US citizens must bring permanent Visa (Green or Pink Card) or Political Asylum Documentation and recorded Declaration of Domicile.
- Social Security Card.

Additional Tidbits

Property owners who moved in 2001 must re-file in person - the "Homestead Exemption" is not transferable.

State law entitles qualified persons with disabilities, veterans and widows/widowers for additional tax savings. Additional special tax savings exist for disabled veterans, surviving spouses of veterans, and all widows and widowers.

To qualify for any of these additional exemptions, you are required by law to complete an application and submit some basic documentation. Deputy Property Appraisers will assist Fort Lauderdale residents with your questions and documentation requirements.

HazMat Team Geared Up To Respond



What is a Hazardous Material?
A hazardous material is "any element, compound, or substance that poses an unreasonable risk to health or property, and because of handling, storage, processing, or packaging, may have detrimental effects on emergency personnel, the public, equipment, and/or the environment."

The recent Anthrax incidents have put the Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue Hazardous Materials Response Team at the forefront of public safety and have made HazMat a household word.

"Most people never heard of Hazardous Materials teams until the Anthrax issue hit," said **William Findlan**, City of Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue Battalion Chief and Hazardous Materials Coordinator. "The Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue HazMat Response Team has been training for biological threats for the past five years."

The Fort Lauderdale HazMat Team responded to 256 calls in 2000. When the Anthrax threat hit this October, the team began answering 10-15 calls per day, seriously impacting the Department's 2001 budget. "Our call volume increased by well over 100 percent which resulted in more than \$25,000 in unbudgeted expenditures," said **Keith Allen**, Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue Deputy Chief of Operations. "Presently, the call volume has reduced to 5-7 calls per day."

Founded in 1979, the HazMat Response Team was the first team formed in Broward County. The team of 36 certified Hazardous Materials Technicians, operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week, is one of four regionally posted HazMat teams that not only responds to calls within the City, but throughout the state. Recently, the Florida State Emergency Response Commission rated Fort Lauderdale's HazMat Team as one of the top teams in Florida.



Fifteen years ago, hazardous materials calls focused on industrial, chemical or transportation accidents. Prior to the Anthrax scare, the most common types of calls involved acid, gasoline, and chemical spills; chlorine vapor leaks; and household propane and natural gas leaks.

"In the last five years, HazMat teams across the country have had to focus on weapons of mass destruction," explained Chief Findlan.

As a result, hazardous materials have been interwoven into every type of protocol from fire-fighting to transporting victims.

"Today, not only do we have to treat the victims medically, but we must treat them as victims of exposure," Chief Allen aid. "Every one of our

fire-rescue professionals must have hazardous materials, weapons of mass destruction, and terrorism training."

HazMat technicians are specialists with advanced training in hazardous materials and the equipment needed to handle chemical, biological, and nuclear emergencies.

"Technicians must be versatile enough to operate computer programs to research vital information about chemical hazards and medical treatment for chemical exposure," said Chief Findlan. "They must also have the physical ability to withstand working in an encapsulated suit for long periods of time, especially in the hot Florida weather."

Throughout the years, the HazMat Team has responded with fire and rescue apparatus. With so many hazardous materials products being transported via air, rail, pipeline and roadway, there was a need to respond to these calls with more sophisticated equipment.

"Through federal grants, we have improved our level of training and equipment for chemical and biological weapons," Chief Allen explained.

The HazMat Team is outfitted with a tractor-trailer truck to store and transport the various equipment and protective gear necessary for hazardous materials emergencies.

"It's become very high tech. When I started in 1986, it was a couple of duffle bags full of suits and a few books," said Chief Findlan.

The HazMat Team works with several local, regional and federal agencies to develop protocols for different types of hazardous material emergencies. These multi-agency partnerships have been strengthened to foster interagency knowledge, as well as to develop an understanding of what each agency's role is in an emergency situation.

"Partnering with other agencies enables us to develop joint, uniform protocols which not only mitigates the potential damage resulting from a hazardous materials incident, but also enables us to serve and protect our citizens more efficiently by operating as a single command unit when on scene," said said Lieutenant **Doug LeValley**, Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue Hazardous Materials Training Coordinator and Vice Chair of Broward County Fire Chiefs Association Hazardous Materials Committee.

Fire-Rescue Department Collaborates In FDNY Christmas Gift 2001 Fundraising Effort

The City of Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue Department has joined a nationwide firefighter fundraising effort - FDNY Christmas Gift 2001.

Fort Lauderdale firefighters are selling a special edition patriotic/Christmas compact disc to raise money for Fire Department of New York's (FDNY) injured and fallen firefighters families. The Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue Department has a limited stock of 2,700 CDs. Citizens may purchase the CDs at any Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue station for \$10.

The CD offers 13 songs including The Star-Spangled Banner, A Tribute to FDNY; a special selection of "A Nation's Prayer," a spoken prayer; various holiday songs; and "Amazing Grace," performed by the Grandfather Mountain Highlanders Pipe Band. The Spartanburg County Fire Chief's Association (SCFCA) coordinated the FDNY Christmas Gift 2001 fundraising program to deliver the largest, one-time gift - referred to as "America's Gift" - to the families of the FDNY.

The fundraiser was created not only to provide financial assistance to the families, but also to provide a special

keepsake to ensure that Americans never forget the firefighters. All proceeds from the sale of the CD will be deposited into a trust fund set up by the SCFCA. Representatives from fire-rescue departments across the nation will deliver "America's Gift," as well as a special memorial, to FDNY in New York City on December 23, 2001.

For more information about the City of Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue Department's FDNY Christmas Gift 2001 fundraiser, please contact **Monique Damiano** at (954) 828-4743 or e-mail **MoniqueD@ci.fortlauderdale.fl.us**.



Have A Fire-Safe Holiday Season

To ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday, the City of Fort Lauderdale recommends these safety tips courtesy of the United States Fire Administration:

Preventing Holiday Tree Fires

- Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks.
- Do not place your tree close to a heat source, such as a fireplace, heat vent, candles, lighters, matches, lit cigarettes. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks.
- Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or woodburning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly at one of the City's recycling drop-off centers. (See **Post Holiday Tree Recycling** on page 4 of this publication.)

Check Your Hot Spots

- Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up.
- Use only nonflammable decorations.
- Do not overload electrical outlets.
- Never leave holiday lights unattended.

Keep Smoke Alarms Working

Working smoke alarms should be installed on every level of your home, especially near sleeping areas. Remember to also test smoke alarms monthly, and keep them clean and equipped with fresh batteries at all times.

Each year, fires associated with the holiday season injure thousands of individuals and cause more than \$25 million in damages according to the United States Fire Administration.

Explorers Open Enrollment For 2002

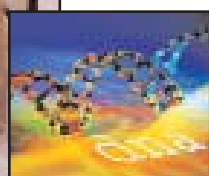
Explorer Post 713 is gearing up for 2002 with open enrollment.

Explorers is a group of youth between the ages of 14 and 21 who have an interest in the Fire-Rescue profession.

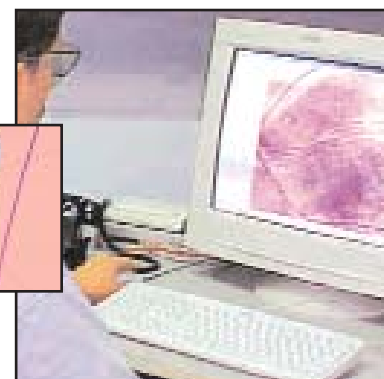
The Post provides them with the opportunity to take part in the training exercises experienced by firefighters. Explorers meet on a weekly basis, every Tuesday night



from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Station 13. Meetings include training activities and planning of community events. For more information on the Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue Explorer Post 713, contact **Jorge Mederos**, Community Education Coordinator, at (954) 828-6503.



Solving Crimes With Science & Technology



The type of crime solving technologies that once were thought of as only seen in science fiction are actual tools and resources currently utilized at crime scenes.

Computer-based imaging systems, DNA analyzing capabilities, mobile crime labs, evidence processing software and authentication programs, to name just a few, have armed the City of Fort Lauderdale Police Department Investigative Bureau with state-of-the-art crime solving tools.

In essence, the days when law enforcement personnel departed the crime scene to begin processing evidence is almost a thing of the past. Enhanced scientific technologies and software-based applications used at crime scenes enhance the ability of officers, detectives and other law enforcement personnel to direct the course of an investigation at the crime scene more efficiently and effectively.

Since 1996, the Police Department has joined a growing number of law enforcement agencies that have consistently acquired the technology and scientific expertise that has evolved from the start of the information age. Here are some of the technologies at work at the City's Police Department.

Instant Identification

In October 1999, the Police Department acquired and implemented the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS). This computer hardware and software-database system, designed to search more than 1.4 million sets of fingerprints of previously charged criminals in the state, links to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's (FDLE) database.

AFIS is utilized by law enforcement agencies when they have collected prints from a crime scene, but do not have a suspect in the case. Detectives digitally transmit prints to FDLE's crime lab facility where they are cross-referenced with fingerprints previously collected and currently in the database. The process takes minutes for Fort Lauderdale latent print examiners to receive up to 18 of the closest matches. Fort Lauderdale is one of few agencies in the state with the equipment, software and trained personnel using this technology.

"In the last 18 months, nearly 200 crimes have been solved in record time with the help of the AFIS technology," said Assistant Police Chief **Al Ortenzo**. "The system is a valuable tool for our law enforcement personnel."

A Big Hit Against Crime

In April 2001, the Fort Lauderdale Police Department acquired a state-of-the-art digital enhancement system known as *More Hits*. The system, which consists of a combination of computer hardware and software applications, is designed to capture images of evidence at a crime scene digitally and import them to an enhancement program that allows the images to be identified, examined and analyzed more effectively. Evidence that was previously either impossible or difficult to visually analyze such as fingerprints on fabrics, fingerprint smudges, tire tracks and shoe prints are enhanced through the *More Hits* applications by filtering out backgrounds. The system connects directly to AFIS, once a fingerprint is acquired.

"In one particular case, we were able to lift a fingerprint that was found on a rag," said Homicide/Crime Scene Unit Detective **Juan Cabrera**. "It is a solved case that is currently used as a training exercise at the FBI."

Cracking Cold Cases With DNA

DNA technology has revolutionized many police investigations. As a science - which can extract a person's genetic code from skin, hair, or fluids - DNA analysis offers law enforcement professionals the tools to examine evidence, identify suspects and solve cases in record time.

In one case, DNA analysis made it possible to extract saliva from the remains of a cigarette that was part of a 10-year old homicide case. Detectives have achieved success on cold cases and have made arrests in several unsolved homicides including one that occurred in 1975, using DNA analysis.

- Continued on page 11

- Continued from page 10

"Our department's use of DNA testing has proven its extraordinary value in identifying criminals who, in the absence of this technology, might go free. Our department was one of the very first agencies in the nation to proactively use this innovative crime-solving tool. We continue to use DNA aggressively to apprehend criminals and have even used the technology to clear innocent suspects," said Assistant Chief Ortenzo.

Combating Cyber Crimes

Computer crimes are a growing trend nationwide. Fort Lauderdale Police Department detectives repeatedly come across crimes facilitated by a computer and crimes where the computer is a target of an investigation.

These computers often hold vital evidence. Their potential for revealing incriminating evidence is invaluable when the information is retrieved. Through sophisticated software and technical expertise the ability to retrieve, trace, track and capture erased information is possible and an effective crime-solving method for the City of Fort Lauderdale Police Department.

Last February, the City Commission approved an expenditure of funds from the Law Enforcement Trust Fund to initiate a Computer Evidence Recovery Team (C.E.R.T.) This high tech computer forensics lab is one of few established in the nation. The goal of C.E.R.T. is to access, retrieve and analyze stored information from computer devices aiding in a crime. Currently, two detectives and a sergeant are trained to respond to C.E.R.T. support investigations.

Database Detail

The ability for the City of Fort Lauderdale Police Department to tap into databases maintained by other law enforcement agencies has proven to be another valuable resource to solving crimes. When an agency is able to cross reference information on crimes and criminals from multiple data sources, detectives are aided with the capability to conduct large-scale intelligence analysis.

With the implementation of TACAMO (Take Charge and Move Out) Program in 1999, detectives are able to conduct investigations with data shared by other law enforcement agencies. For example, the Fort Lauderdale Police Department's pawn computer Automated Property Recovery System is regularly interfaced with data from the Broward Sheriff's Office and Florida Department of Corrections. Criminals who are on community control are checked against the database of pawn transactions. Those who are restricted from pawn activities as a condition of their probation are flagged for further investigation. To date 1,836 matches have been identified with 518 violations of community control established and an additional 98 arrest warrants issued to violators.

"This program, initiated in Fort Lauderdale, has been so successful that it is now being utilized statewide and in a growing number of other states across the nation," said Assistant Chief Ortenzo.



Putting The Brakes On Bicycle Thefts

Bicycle theft is big business throughout the nation. As prices for new bicycles increase each year, their resale value also increases.

In the past six years, Fort Lauderdale Police records indicate that bicycle thefts peaked in 1996 with a grand total of 1,488 bicycles stolen. The monetary value of this loss was estimated at a staggering \$422,130. Since then, a series of crime prevention tactics and programs have been implemented to reduce the number of bicycle thefts each year. Statistics for 2000 indicate that bicycle thefts were reduced by 50 percent cutting the monetary loss by half. The Fort Lauderdale Police Department has a bicycle registration program in place that is mandatory for all residents and optional for non-residents.

Bicycle registration helps the police to quickly and accurately locate the proper owner of any registered bicycle recovered after it has been lost or stolen.

All it takes is \$1 for a decal for the initial registration. To register, citizens must provide proof of ownership. If proof of ownership is not available, registrants will be required to sign a sworn affidavit, which will be notarized at the time of registration.

Bicycles can be registered at the Community Support Division Center, 1113 East Sunrise Boulevard, Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Or you can call to set up an appointment at your convenience to register your bicycle at these locations:

Snyder Park,

2800 S.W. 8th Avenue,

Wednesday and Sunday, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Please call (954) 828-1585 for appointment.

City Marina Dockmaster's Office

Two New River Drive

(Located south of the Las Olas Bridge east of the Intracoastal waterway)

Please call (954) 828-5200 for an appointment.

REGISTER YOUR BIKE - IT'S THE LAW





The City of Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue and Police Departments collaboratively have raised thousands of dollars for victims of the September 11 tragedy. At left, Police and Fire-Rescue personnel hoop it up at Fort Lauderdale High School for the Guns N' Hoses Charity Basketball Game.

W-O-O-O-S-H-H-H!

Basketball Charity Nets \$4,135

The City Fort Lauderdale Police and Fire-Rescue Departments packed a full house on the stands and basketball courts of Fort Lauderdale High School for the Guns 'N Hoses Charity Basketball Game.

The event, held November 4, raised \$4,135 for the New York Police & Firefighters Widows' and Children's Benefit Fund. The game concluded with a Police victory of 80-57.

The Police Pipe & Drum Corps of Florida charmed the crowd during the half-time show. Clearchannel and its affiliated radio stations Y-100 and Big 106 were present and handed out promotional items. Raffles conducted awarded gift certificates for restaurants including Yesterday's, Burt & Jack's and weekend get-a-ways to such hotels as Marriott, Yankee Sheraton and Embassy Suites.



Police Gear Up for 17th Community Police Academy

The City of Fort Lauderdale Police Department is conducting open enrollment for the next installment of the popular Community Police Academy scheduled to begin February 21, 2002.

This 14-week program, which meets Thursdays nights from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., is offered to residents of the City of Fort Lauderdale and civic and government organizations members.

The academy is designed to foster an active partnership with the community by addressing topics including Community Policing, Officer Selection, Police Recruiting, Drug Enforcement, Special Investigations, Communications, Community Programs, Services and Range and Firearms.

In addition to the scheduled classes, an eight-hour "ride along" with Patrol Officers is available.

To enroll, citizens must fill out an application prior to the start of the class. Applications can be downloaded from the City's web-site (www.ci.fortlauderdale.fl.us/police/cpa). For additional information, contact Omayra Tavaréz at the Community Support Division at (954) 828-6432 or by email (OmayraT@ci.fortlauderdale.fl.us)

Events & Services

- The next Landlord/Tenant Training courses will take place January 16 and February 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the Fort Lauderdale Police Department's Community Support Division (CSD) Office. Topics include keeping illegal

activity out of property, applicant screening, the Federal Fair Housing Act, Section 8 Housing and more. For more information and to register, please call (954) 828-6428.

- The Fort Lauderdale Police Department's License Plate Theft Prevention Program continues to offer cit-

izens a unique locking device to prevent license plate theft. While supplies last, citizens can pick up the theft prevention tools Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the CSD office, 1113 East Sunrise Blvd. For more information, please call Alisa Cappuzzello, Project Director at (954) 828-6433.

Police Initiative Slashes Underage Sales Of Tobacco, Alcohol In Community

Alcohol and tobacco addiction are no laughing matter, especially when the user is underage.

In an effort to reduce the accessibility and availability of tobacco and alcohol for youth on the streets, the Fort Lauderdale Police Department Community Support Division (CSD) recently launched a new initiative that monitors local businesses for the illegal sale of tobacco and alcohol to minors.

Since its inception in September, the initiative has resulted in more than 20 arrests.

"This is a serious offense," said Fort Lauderdale Police Major **Charles Drago**. "The scope of this project involved the combination of education and enforcement to seek a long-term solution."

CSD along with agents from the state's Alcohol, Beverage and Tobacco Division worked closely to identify convenience store employees who were selling alcohol and tobacco items illegally to minors. Violators were offered the opportunity to attend a class presented by the Division of Alcohol and Tobacco entitled *Slashing Underage Sales*.

"Typically, the arrests would be forwarded to the city prosecutors office for disposition," said Drago. "In these cases, CSD and the prosecutor's office agreed to try a different approach by offering the class instead of prosecution."

Eighteen of the 20 violators attended the one-hour class, which included the following topics: state statutes for retail sale of tobacco and alcohol, penalties, how to control the product when displayed in the store, the manager's role, and how to teach employees. Each received a complete course study packet with videos, CDs and lesson plans. For more information about the training course or ongoing program, please contact the Fort Lauderdale Police Department CSD at (954) 828-6411.



Pedal Power

Fort Lauderdale Police, Dorsey-Riverbend Enhance Community Policing Efforts

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department and the residents of Dorsey-Riverbend have shifted their community policing gears up a notch thanks to a little pedal power from a local retail chain and non-profit social organization.

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department and the Broward County Chapter of MAD DADS (Men Against Destruction - Defending Against Drugs and Social Disorder) have joined forces to create the Dorsey-Riverbend MADDADS Bicycle Patrol.

The Dorsey-Riverbend MAD DADS Bicycle Patrol, a community patrol team made up of Fort Lauderdale Police Bicycle Patrol officers and citizen volunteers, received a donation of 12 bicycles from Wal-Mart Stores. The group will ride through the neighborhood several times a week, identifying unsupervised youth to mentor and positively influence.

“... The efforts of these volunteers must be applauded because they have come together to promote an important public safety initiative, thereby helping to improve their community.”

MAD DADS is a national organization that was formed in 1989 by parents who were impacted by gang violence and the flow of illegal drugs in their community. Members must serve as positive role models and concerned parents who are visibly active in their neighborhoods fighting against the negative forces that destroy children, families and cities.

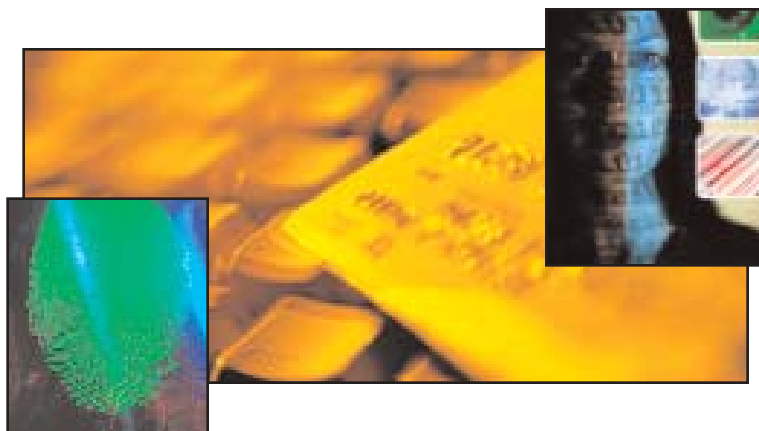
Fort Lauderdale Police Bicycle Patrol Officers ride with MAD DADS, providing support and guidance for this program, said Police Captain **Paul Kiley**.

"The Dorsey-Riverbend MAD DADS Bicycle Patrol will make a tremendous positive impact on the neighborhood," said Kiley. "There is no doubt in

my mind that this will be an effective patrol. The efforts of these volunteers must be applauded because they have come together to promote an important public safety initiative, thereby helping to improve their community."

For additional information about MAD DADS please visit the organization's web site at www.maddadsnational.com or contact Arlon Kennedy of the Dorsey-Riverbend MAD DADS Bicycle Patrol at (954) 367-2500.





Police Forum Addresses Identity Theft

It can happen to anyone.

The phone rings and a collection agency demands that you pay past-due accounts for merchandise you never ordered. The supermarket refuses your checks because you have a history of bouncing them. But you have a perfect record and always pay bills on time. What has happened?



The crime of identity theft is on the rise. Using a variety of methods, criminals steal credit card numbers, driver's license numbers, Social Security Numbers, ATM cards, telephone calling cards and other key pieces of individuals' identities.

The City of Fort Lauderdale Police Department presents the ID Theft Workshop on January 15 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., at the Community Support Division Office, 1113 East Sunrise Blvd. Detective **Bob Dodder** of the Crime Prevention Unit will address identity theft and the criminals behind the violation. Find out how ID thieves target their victims and gain access to personal and company information. Learn how to prevent your business, organization and your personal identity from being affected. For additional information or to attend the class, call (954) 828-6428.

Police Department Recruiting

The City of Fort Lauderdale Police Department has 17 positions available for non-certified and certified police officers.

Over the next year, with the annexation of the Melrose Park neighborhood and retiring officers, additional positions will become available.

The starting annual salary for a non-certified officer is \$37,772. Florida certified officers can earn up to a maximum salary of \$49,608.40. Effective April 13, 2003, in accordance with the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) contract, the maximum salary offered by the department will be \$60,216.00. All positions offer liberal fringe benefits, a 20-year retirement program, a five-year Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP), a take home vehicle program, as well as an excellent health and dental plan. Minimum qualifications require all candidates to be at least 19 years of age, be a U.S. citizen, have no felony convictions, be a high school graduate, and pass an extensive background investigation. The hiring process for all applicants includes a written civil service exam, a physical agility screening, a panel interview, a polygraph examination, a psychological screening, a medical exam, a swimming test, and a background investigation. All candidates hired are trained through the police academy.

For additional information on the hiring process, or to download an employment application, visit the Police Department website (www.ci.for-lauderdale.fl.us/police). Applications may also be obtained from City Hall Personnel Division located on the third floor, 100 North Andrews Ave., in downtown Fort Lauderdale.



Communications Tax Restructured

Last spring, the 2001 Florida Legislature approved a new law revising the way taxes are collected on communications services by providers of local telephone services, long distance services, cable and satellite television services, cellular and beeper services.

At the request of the communications industry, the "Communications Services Tax Simplification Law" led to a restructuring of taxes and fees among various types of services. The tax restructuring was reflected on consumers' bills for services provided after October 1, 2001. Under the new law, seven taxes and fees were combined into two: state and local communications taxes. In some municipalities, the local government tax for cable services may be slightly higher, but the local government tax on telephone service is much lower. The law provides that the restructured local government rates will assure the same level of revenue to local governments as the

previous law but also provides a cap on tax receipts to prevent a wind-fall at the expense of consumers. The City's tax rate, set by the Florida Department of Revenue decreased from 8 percent to 5.62 percent for telephone services, and increased from 5 percent to 5.62 percent on cable television services. Prior to the new law, the tax system created burdensome administrative costs and other complications for the communications industry and for local governments. In addition to the complexities, the former system created several opportunities for erosion of the tax base. With the new law, communications services providers file a single monthly return and payment to the Florida Department of Revenue which will administer, collect, and audit providers under the new law.

For more information regarding the new tax structure, please call the Florida Department of Revenue at 1-800-352-3671.

Business Matters

The City, in partnership with the Florida Atlantic University Small Business Development Center (SBDC) continues to provide free business consulting and training seminars for the business community. Don't miss these upcoming educational opportunities.

Avoid Business Start-Up Blues

Opening your doors for business can sometimes be tricky. Issues regarding permitting, licensing and legalities can postpone your official business start-up date by weeks, even months. Don't miss "How to Stay Out of Trouble When Starting Your New Business" on January 29 from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. on the 8th floor of City Hall, 100 N. Andrews Ave. This workshop will cover legal protection for business owners, required licensing, occupational licensing and more. For more information, call **(954) 828-4515**.

Financial Planning

The City of Fort Lauderdale and SBDC will offer "Finding the Money Your Business Needs" on January 17 from 4 - 7 p.m. in the New River Room of the Broward Center for the Performing Arts. This special workshop will offer small businesses the opportunity to meet one-on-one with public and pri-

vate agencies that provide numerous financial programs in South Florida. Agencies will have information regarding loan opportunities for business start-ups or expansion, working capital or equipment purchases,

inventory or real estate, large-scale economic development projects in target areas, and small business stabilization. For more information, call **(954) 828-4515**.

Economic Recovery for Small Businesses

Prompted by the widespread economic impact of the terrorist attacks on New York City and the Pentagon, the U.S. Small Business Administration has widened access to Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) to small businesses across the country. The deadline to apply for economic injury loan assistance is on January 21, 2002. Eligibility and restrictions apply. For additional information, visit the USSBA website (www.sba.gov) or contact the USSBA district office at **1-800-359-2227**, or the regional SBA office at **1-305-536-5521**.



City Commissioners Give Green Light To Golf Facility At Wingate Site

Fort Lauderdale City Commissioners have voted to accept the National Golf Foundation's feasibility study regarding a proposed golf facility at the former site of the Wingate Road Landfill and Incinerator, 1300 NW 31st Avenue. The vote came as work crews completed installing the EPA-approved protective liner at the 60-plus acres site.

"With the community's help, we are in the final phase of the cleanup process that started back to the late 1970s, and we have begun the process of redeveloping the site into a community asset," said **Greg Kisela**, Fort Lauderdale assistant city manager. "Next, the City will research various funding sources to pay for the project, costing between \$2.5 million and \$4 million."

Environmental contractors recently completed the final stages of the Environmental Protection Agency's cleanup plan at the landfill last fall.

The cleanup and redevelopment of the site have been goals of the city since 1978, when the landfill and incinerator closed under an agreement with environmental regulators. All City residents and approximately 1,400 businesses used the landfill from the mid-1950s until it closed.

The EPA's remediation plan features a multi-layered closure system, with a high-density, polyethylene geomembrane and 18-inch thick vegetative soil layer as part of the two foot thick protective cover over the impervious geosynthetic capping system.

This system, which the EPA used successfully at similar Superfund sites around the country, will prevent human contact with landfill material and protect drinking water supplies. The site will be monitored for 30 years.

"This is a milestone for this community," said resident **Kassandra Barnes**, who co-chairs the Community Advisory Council, CAC, which was created in 1998 to advise the City and EPA on community concerns and redevelopment preferences. "We finally have a quiet, safe and green site that can become a source of pride for the neighborhood."

"This has truly been a long and rocky road," said CAC Co-Chair **Robert Smith**. "But the voices of the community were heard from City Hall up to the EPA, and we're now moving forward from cleanup to an end use with fresh open air and clean space that will benefit the neighborhood and the city overall."

In July, the Fort Lauderdale City Commission accepted the CAC's unanimous recommendation to evaluate transforming the site into a golf facility with clubhouse and banquet facilities for community functions and educational programs. The city is currently evaluating the feasibility study.

"Before reaching a decision, we did neighborhood surveys and extensive research," said Smith. "We want Wingate to be an example for other communities overcoming the same issues we are facing."



Sponsors, Citizens Welcome Junior League Play Station, Thomas L. Tapp Depot

More than 300 people attended the City of Fort Lauderdale's grand opening celebration and dedication of the Junior League Play Station and Thomas L. Tapp Depot on November 17.

The playground and pavilion are located at Holiday Park, just north of War Memorial Auditorium at 800 N.E. 8th Street off Sunrise Boulevard and Federal Highway.

In celebrating over 60 years of service, the Junior League of Greater Fort Lauderdale partnered with the City of Fort Lauderdale and several community sponsors to construct the Junior League Play Station. The 1.2-acre playground, features age-specific equipment for toddlers and juniors and is designed as an adventure fun zone to stimulate young minds and give children an opportunity to learn about their environment. The playground also includes a train yard with Fort Lauderdale's famous 1936 Switcher Engine, park benches and a recycled-tire connective walkway through the playground. As part of the dedication, the Thomas L. Tapp Depot was unveiled. Named in honor of Fort Lauderdale's former Parks and Recreation Director who served the community for 18 years, the pavilion is adjacent to the playground and provides families with a picnic site.

About the Sponsors

The fundraising campaign led by the Junior League of Greater Fort Lauderdale sought contributions to help pay for the playground. During a 12-month span, contributions made by

The Lindi Himmel Foundation, the King Automotive Group, the Sun-Sentinel and the Victoria Park Civic Association are helping to make this project a reality.

The **Victoria Park Civic Association** is the sponsor of a playground Rest Zone.

King Automotive Group is the sponsor of Kids Crossing U.S.A., a play area for children five to 12 years old. The King family has been a Fort Lauderdale business leader since 1937 when their first automobile dealership opened. Today that tradition continues with Clay King as President of the King Automotive Group.

The **Lindi Himmel Foundation** sponsored Toddler Town U.S.A., a play area for children two to five years old, and a Rest Zone. Lindi Himmel is a Television Marketing Executive. Himmel represents Weigel Broadcasting, which operates Television Stations in Chicago: WCIU-TV, WFBT-TV and WebFN. Ms. Himmel heads up the Fort Lauderdale Satellite Office for Weigel Broadcasting.

In addition, at the November 17 grand opening, the **Sun-Sentinel** announced that they will sponsor the 1936 Switcher Engine. For sponsorship information or to find out more about publicly displaying your commitment to building a better community with the Junior League of Greater Fort Lauderdale, please call (954) 462-1350.



Birds Head South for the Spring

Fans will again flock to the ballpark in February of 2002 to watch Orioles Spring Training. The Baltimore Orioles return for their seventh spring at Fort Lauderdale Stadium, located at 1401 NW 55th St., playing a schedule of 14 home games. Visiting teams this spring include the Boston Red Sox, New York Mets, Los Angeles Dodgers and St. Louis Cardinals. Practices are open to the public at no charge from mid-February until the games begin in March. Ticket windows open at Fort Lauderdale Stadium at 10 a.m. on January 12. For a copy of the spring training schedule and ticket information, please call (954) 776-1921.

Don't miss the Orioles Charity Breakfast on February 24. This spring training tradition is held at Fort Lauderdale Stadium and includes a buffet breakfast, player autograph session and auctions to benefit Sun-Sentinel charities. Admission is \$15 per person. Tickets are limited and must be purchased in advance. For more information, please call the City Festivals office at (954) 828-3267.

Around Town

Fort Lauderdale is the place to be for sports, arts, cultural and family oriented events. Here is a brief look at some of the exciting activities planned for the upcoming weeks.

Holiday Toy Drive

The Fort Lauderdale Firefighters Benevolent Association is having its annual Toy Drive to benefit needy children in Fort Lauderdale. Citizens may bring new, unwrapped toys for children of all ages to any Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue station from now until Friday, December 21 at 7 p.m. For additional information please contact **Lieutenant Robert Bacic** at (954) 396-3623. Toys will be delivered to the children on Sunday, December 23 by Santa Claus and Fort Lauderdale firefighters via rescue apparatus.



Santa On The Beach

Santa Claus and his elves will walk along Fort Lauderdale Beach on Friday, December 21 at 12:45 p.m. handing out candy to all the good little boys and good little girls. In his sleigh (Fort Lauderdale Fire Department's antique fire truck), St. Nicholas will leave his headquarters at the City of Fort Lauderdale Parks and Recreation

Department, located at 1350 W. Broward Boulevard, by police escort at noon. His route will take him east on Broward Boulevard to Andrews Avenue, south on Andrews to Las Olas Boulevard, east on Las Olas to A1A and south on A1A to the International Swimming Hall of Fame (501 Seabreeze Boulevard). Santa and his elves will proceed south to South Beach Park, located on A1A at the Yankee Clipper Beach Resort (1140 Seabreeze Boulevard) and cross to Fort Lauderdale's sandy beach where he will then proceed north along the beach to Birch State Park (A1A and Sunrise Boulevard) distributing candy canes and holiday treats. For more information, call the Parks and Recreation Department at (954) 828-5346.



South Florida Senior Games

The 12th Annual South Florida Senior Games are set for January 23 through February 8 2002. Opening ceremonies are scheduled to take place at Holiday Park on January 23 from noon to 3 p.m.

Registrations will be mailed out in December. If you have never attended and would like information on participating or registration simply call **Judy Thom** at (954) 828-4610, **Kim Warren** at (954) 762-8941, or **Dori Horowitz** at (954) 357-8170 and ask to be on the mailing list.

Winterfest Boat Parade

The 30th Annual Cingular Wireless Winterfest Boat Parade presented by Nokia will be held



on December 15, leaving from Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale at 6:30 p.m. and traveling north up the Intracoastal Waterway. This year's parade will encompass 100 boats with celebrities, musical groups and many other exciting entries. The Purina O.N.E. Grandstand Viewing Area offers reserved and assigned seating inside Birch State Park on the Northeast corner of Sunrise Boulevard and the Intracoastal Waterway. Tickets are \$ 17 for individual adults, \$15 groups of 20 or more, \$12 for children 10 years of age and younger. For more information, on this event, please call (954) 767-0686 or log on to **www.winterfestparade.com**.

Music By The River

Enjoy live music at **Bank of America Starlights at Riverwalk**, on the first Friday of each month at the DDA Plaza amphitheater, located on the corner of East Las Olas Boulevard and Andrews Avenue, 7:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. For additional information on future artists performing, call the Bank of America Starlights on the River hotline at (954) 828-6500.

At Fort Lauderdale Stadium

Don't miss the Joe DiMaggio Legends game on February 9th. Gates will open at 5:30 p.m. with ceremonies starting at 6:30 p.m. followed by games at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$3 for bleacher seating and \$5 for reserved grandstand. Tickets can be purchased at the Fort Lauderdale Stadium operations office at 1401 NW 55th Street. For more information please call (954) 828-4980.

SunTrust Jazz Brunch

Don't miss the SunTrust Sunday Jazz Brunch, showcasing South Florida's finest jazz entertainers on five stages, and plenty of local cuisine for purchase on the first Sunday of each month from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event extends from Las Olas Riverfront to the Broward Center for the Performing Arts. For more information call the hotline at (954) 828-5985 or visit the City's web site (**www.ci.fort-lauderdale.fl.us**).

While we make every effort to include timely information, circumstances occasionally force changes to events listed. Please call the numbers listed prior to attending. Additionally, current events may cause mail deliveries of this publication. Should you receive this publication after an event has occurred please accept our apologies.

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